

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5 and 12 are now active in this application.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the final Official Action dated August 11, 2003, claims 1, 3-6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Hosotsubo (USPN 6,009,485) in view of Tabata (USPN 6,198,542). The Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.116, dated November 12, 2003 and which is to be entered with the filing of the RCE, included remarks as to why the claims are patentable over Hosotsubo and Tabata. These remarks are not repeated, but are incorporated herein by reference thereto.

In addition to these remarks, Applicants further note that in Hosotsubo, the registration processing of a group name and user name is executed *in the server*, as illustrated in Fig. 4. That is to say, user names are selected from the user list (S13) and after selecting the user names, the group name is inputted (S15), whereupon the group name and the user names are registered in the group (S16).

In contrast, in the claims of the present application, a terminal apparatus registers itself as a user in a group and the registration processing is executed in the terminal apparatus (digital integrated apparatus 320).

The process flow in the digital integrated apparatus 320 is described in the specification from page 16, line 20 to page 17, line 25, as follows:

- (1) Select "destination-group registration" command;
- (2) Request image server 110 to send "destination-group names";
- (3) Display all destination group names sent from image server 110;

- (4) Select one of the destination group names; and
- (5) Send the image server 110 the selected destination group name together with the network domain name of the terminal and a registration request.

The claims of present application enable the user name (terminal apparatus) to be registered by designating one of the group names in order to share documents through the network. However, the registration disclosed in Hosotsubo is for classifying a user into a group in order to share a document.

In addition, it is possible in the claimed invention to register a terminal in a group on the terminal apparatus side, regardless of an attribute information table illustrated in Fig. 8 of Hosotsubo. By making best use of the advantages of the network connection, the terminal apparatus to be registered in the group can be easily specified.

Although it may also be possible in apparatus of Hosotsubo that the terminal can register itself into a group, the group name and attribute information must be identified with the registered name and information in the table of the server. If the user inputs an erroneous group name or erroneous attribute information, the terminal cannot be registered. In addition, in Hosotsubo, registration can be executed only when the access right is given to the terminal. If the terminal in Hosotsubo does not have the access right, the present invention is available to execute registration.

In view of the above, the allowance of independent claims 1 and 12, as well as dependent claims 3-6, is respectfully solicited.

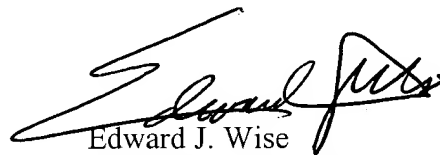
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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